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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 000959

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/17/2014

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [SP](#) [EUN](#)

SUBJECT: SPANISH REACTION TO DEMARCHE ON MARCH 22-23 EU FMS
AND MARCH 25-26 EC MEETINGS

REF: STATE 57444

Classified By: Classified by Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Political Counselor,
for Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

1. (C) Summary. Spain will be putting terrorism at the top of its agenda for the March 22-23 EU FMS meetings and the March 25-26 European Council meetings. Jointly with the Dutch, Spain will be backing the creation of a EU Coordinator for anti-terrorism efforts. The MFA's EU Office also expects the investiture of the new Socialist government to proceed quickly and to have Miguel Angel Moratinos installed as the new Foreign Minister by as early as April 15. End summary.

Terrorism and Terrorist Financing

2. (C) We delivered refrel demarche on March 18 to Enrique Mora, Director of the MFA's Office of EU Foreign Policy and Common Security. On terrorist financing, Mora stated that Spain shares the USG's concern about the amount of time it takes to designate terrorists through the EU Clearinghouse (Spain has been working actively with the Dutch and some other EU states to reform the process). He said that Spain sees the need for a single EU Coordinator for anti-terrorism efforts, which he likened to Secretary Ridge's position in the Department of Homeland Security. He said that Spain and the Netherlands would jointly introduce a measure creating this position, but that he expected that United Kingdom representatives may disagree, as the British have been reluctant to streamline the process of designating terrorists.

3. (C) Mora also stated that there would be a discussion on whether the EU should implement its Solidarity Clause in response to the Madrid bombings and ban trade with any government that is judged to not be combating terrorism. He said that such a ban could affect several North African countries, especially in light of the events in Madrid.

Iran, Serbia and the Middle East

4. (C) Regarding Iran, Mora stated that the EU ministers would be calling for Iran to put its recent promises in writing. He said Spain still believes in dialog with Iran, but that the most recent statements by the Iranian government on allowing inspections must be put into signed agreements.

5. (C) On Serbian and Croatian cooperation with the ICTY, Mora said that Spain agrees that there must be a strong line urging cooperation with the tribunals. However, he did not foresee any changes in the CARDS budget linked to cooperation.

6. (C) Mora did not see any conclusions being agreed to at this meeting with regard to possible Israeli plans for unilateral disengagement. He noted the USG's position that the peace process should be pursued parallel to the Greater Middle East Initiative, and that progress on one should not be linked to progress on the other. However, he mentioned that he thought it would be hard for the Arab states to not see movement on the Greater Middle East Initiative as contingent on progress on Israeli/Palestinian issues.

New Foreign Minister

7. (C) As is commonly believed, Mora said he expected the new Socialist government to name Miguel Angel Moratinos Cuyaube as its Foreign Minister. He noted that Moratinos is a "Middle East expert", having served as the EU's Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process from the end of 1996 to mid-2003, and as Spain's Ambassador to Israel for six months prior to the EU appointment. Mora thought that the new government could be invested and working by as early as April 14.

ARGYROS